IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Amended) A method of producing a flaky fine powder, comprising:

adding alkoxysilane and/or silicic acid solution to a dispersion containing a flaky or scaly base and spherical silica particles, and

immobilizing said spherical silica particles on the surface of said said flaky or scaly base by hydrolyzing said alkoxysilane and/or gelling said silicic acid solution,

said flaky or scaly base having a thickness of about 1 μm or less and is selected from the group consisting of mica, talc and platelet shaped silica, and said spherical silica particles comprise SiO_2 or a mixture of SiO_2 with one or more of Al_2O_3, ZrO_2, MgO, ZnO, CeO_2 or Fe_2O_3, said spherical silica particles being non-porous and having an average particle size of 0.05-3 μm,

wherein the permittivity (ε) of said dispersion is in the following range:

$$15 \leq \varepsilon \leq 80$$

and the ion concentration (N) of the sum of cations and anions in said dispersion satisfies the following conditions:

(a) $200 \text{ ppm} \leq N \leq 5*10^4 \text{ ppm}$, when ε is 15,

(b) $3*10^4$ ppm $\leq N \leq 2*10^5$ ppm, when ε is 80, and

(c) N is in a quadrilateral area formed by A (15, 200), B (15, $5*10^4$), C (80, $2*10^5$) and D (80, $3*10^4$) in the (X,Y) coordinate system with the X axis for the permittivity (ε) (-) and the Y axis for the ion concentration (N) (ppm), when $15 \leq \varepsilon \leq 80$.

2. (Previously Amended) A method of producing a flaky fine powder comprising:

(a) dispersing a flaky or scaly base having a thickness of about 1 μm or less selected from the group consisting of mica, talc and platelet shaped silica, and spherical silica particles comprised of SiO_2 or a mixture of SiO_2 with one or more of Al_2O_3, ZrO_2, MgO, ZnO, CeO_2 or Fe_2O_3, in a dispersion medium comprising an organic solvent and/or water, to adhere said spherical silica particles on the surface of said flaky or scaly base, and

(b) adding alkoxysilane and/or silicic acid solution to the obtained dispersion,

said spherical silica particles being non-porous and having an average particle size of 0.05-3 μm and immobilized on the surface of said flaky or scaly base by hydrolyzing said alkoxysilane and/or gelling said silicic acid solution,

wherein the permittivity (ε) of said dispersion is in the following range[;]:

$$15 \leq \varepsilon \leq 80$$

and the ion concentration (N) of the sum of cations and anions in said dispersion satisfies the following conditions:

(a) 200 ppm $\leq$ N $\leq$ $5*10^4$ ppm, when ε is 15,

(b) $3*10^4$ ppm $\leq$ N $\leq$ $2*10^5$ ppm, when ε is 80, and

(c) N is in a quadrilateral area formed by A (15, 200), B (15, $5*10^4$), C (80, $2*10^5$) and D (80, $3*10^4$) in the (X,Y) coordinate system with the X axis for the permittivity (ε) (-) and the Y axis for the ion concentration (N) (ppm), when $15 \leq \varepsilon \leq 80$.

3. (Previously Amended) A flaky, fine powder comprising a flaky or scaly base having a thickness of about 1 μm or less and selected from the group consisting of mica, talc and platelet shaped silica; and spherical silica particles comprised of SiO_2 or a mixture of SiO_2 with one or more of Al_2O_3, ZrO_2, MgO, ZnO, CeO_2 or Fe_2O_3, and said spherical silica particles being non-porous and having an average particle size of 0.05-3 μm and covering the surface of said flaky or scaly base.

4. (Original) The flaky, fine powder according to claim 3, wherein said spherical silica particles are immobilized on the surface of said flaky or scaly base by a hydrolysate of alkoxysilane and/or silica gel.

5. (Previously Amended) A method of producing a flaky fine powder comprising:

dispersing (a) a flaky or scaly base having a thickness of about 1 μm or less selected from the group consisting of mica, talc and platelet shaped silica, and (b) spherical silica particles comprised of SiO_2 or a mixture of SiO_2 with one or more of Al_2O_3, ZrO_2, MgO, ZnO, CeO_2 or Fe_2O_3, in a dispersion medium, said spherical silica particles being non-porous and having an average particle size of 0.05-3 μm,

said spherical silica particles being deposited on a surface of said flaky or scaly base in said dispersion medium, and a flaky, fine powder being obtained by filtering, washing and drying the obtained dispersion,

wherein the permittivity (ε) of said dispersion is in the following range:

$$15 \leq \varepsilon \leq 80$$

and the ion concentration (N) of the sum of cations and anions of said dispersion satisfies the following conditions,

$200 \text{ ppm} \leq N \leq 5*10^4 \text{ ppm}$, when ε is 15,

$3*10^4 \text{ ppm} \leq N \leq 2*10^5 \text{ ppm}$, when ε is 80, and

N is in a quadrilateral area formed by A (15, 200), B (15, $5*10^4$), C (80, $2*10^5$) and D (80, $3*10^4$) in the (X,Y) coordinate

system with the X axis for the permittivity (ε) (-) and the Y axis for the ion concentration (N) (ppm), when $15 \leq \varepsilon \leq 80$.

6. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 5, further comprising immobilizing said spherical silica particles on the surface of said flaky or scaly base by adding alkoxysilane and/or silicic acid solution to said dispersion.

7. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 5, further comprising immobilizing said spherical silica particles on said surface of said flaky or scaly base by adding alkoxysilane to said dispersion and hydrolysing said alkoxysilane.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein said alkoxysilane is a compound having the formula:

$$Si(OR)_4,$$

wherein R is an alkyl group with a carbon number of 1 to 7.

9. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 5, further comprising immobilizing said spherical silica particles on the surface of said flaky or scaly base by adding silicic acid solution to said dispersion, and gelling said solution.

10. (Original) A flaky, fine powder comprising a flaky or scaly base having a thickness of about 1 μm or less selected from the group consisting of mica, talc and platelet shaped silica; and spherical silica particles comprised of SiO_2 or a mixture of

SiO_2 with one or more of Al_2O_3, ZrO_2, MgO, ZnO, CeO_2 or Fe_2O_3, and said spherical silica particles being non-porous and having an average particle size of 0.05-3 μm which adhere to the surface of said flaky or scaly base.

11. (Original) The flaky, fine powder according to claim 10, wherein said spherical silica particles are immobilized on said flaky or scaly base by hydrolysate of alkoxysilane, and/or silica gel.

12. (Original) A cosmetic comprising a flaky fine powder produced according to the method of claim 5.

13. (Original) A cosmetic comprising a flaky fine powder produced according to the method of claim 1.

14. (Original) A cosmetic comprising a flaky fine powder produced according to the method of claim 2.

15. (Original) A cosmetic comprising a flaky, fine powder as claimed in claim 3.

16. (Original) A cosmetic comprising a flaky, fine powder as claimed in claim 4.

17. (Original) A cosmetic comprising a flaky, fine powder as claimed in claim 10.

18. Cancelled

19. Cancelled

20. Cancelled

21. Cancelled

22. Cancelled

23. (Previously Amended) A method of producing a flaky fine powder comprising:

hydrolyzing tetraethoxysilane in a dispersion containing mica flakes having a thickness of about 1 μm or less, to thereby precipitate the silica and immobilize said silica on the surface of said mica flakes non-porous spherical silica particles having an average particle size of 0.05-3 μm,

wherein the permittivity ε of said dispersion is in the following range;

$$15 \leq \varepsilon < 80$$

and the ion concentration (N) of the sum of cations and anions in said dispersion satisfies the following conditions,

(a) $200 \text{ ppm} \leq N \leq 5*10^4 \text{ ppm}$, when ε is 15,

(b) $3*10^4 \text{ ppm} \leq N \leq 2*10^5 \text{ ppm}$, when ε is 80, and

(c) N is in a quadrilateral area formed by A (15, 200), B (15, $5*10^4$), C (80, $2*10^5$) and D (80, $3*10^4$) in the (X,Y) coordinate system with the X axis for the permittivity (ε) (-) and the Y axis for the ion concentration (N) (ppm), when $15 \leq \varepsilon \leq 80$.

24. Cancelled

25. Cancelled

26. Cancelled